DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 442 682 SO 031 322

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TITLE Gold Fever! Seattle Outfits the Klondike Gold Rush. Teaching with Historic Places.
INSTITUTION National Register of Historic Places, Washington, DC. Interagency Resources Div.
PUB DATE 1999-00-00
NOTE 28p.
AVAILABLE FROM Teaching with Historic Places, National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, NW, Suite NC400, Washington, DC 20240. For full text: http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/55klondike/55Klondike.htm
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom - Teacher (052)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Foreign Countries; Historic Sites; *Local History; Primary Sources; Secondary Education; Social Studies; *United States History; *Urban Areas; *Urban Culture
IDENTIFIERS Canada; *Klondike Gold Rush; National Register of Historic Places; *Washington (Seattle); Westward Movement (United States)

ABSTRACT

This lesson is based on the National Register of Historic Places registration file, "Pioneer Square Historic District," and other sources about Seattle (Washington) and the Klondike Gold Rush. The lesson helps students understand how Seattle exemplified the prosperity of the Klondike Gold Rush after 1897 when news of a gold strike in Canada's Yukon Valley reached Seattle and the city's face was changed dramatically by furious commercial activity. The lesson can be used in units on western expansion, late 19th-century commerce, and urban history. It is divided into the following sections: "About This Lesson"; "Setting the Stage: Historical Context"; "Locating the Site: Maps" (Routes from Seattle to Klondike; Pioneer Square, Seattle); "Determining the Facts: Readings" (The Rush for Gold; Selling Seattle; Front Page of the "Seattle Post-Intelligencer," October 13, 1897; The Legacy of the Klondike Gold Rush); "Visual Evidence: Images" (Cooper and Levy, Pioneer Outfitters; McDougal and Southwick Company; Thedinga Hardware Company; The Pioneer Building, Pioneer Square; Ascending the "Golden Stairs" up to Chilkoot Pass on the Chilkoot Trail, 1897); "Putting It All Together: Activities" (Should I Stay, or Should I Go?; Opportunity Knocks); and "Supplementary Resources." (BT)

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Teaching with Historic Places

Gold Fever! Seattle Outfits the Klondike Gold Rush

Teaching with Historic Places
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1849 C. Street, N.W., Suite NC400
Washington, D.C. 20240

http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/55klondike/55klondike.htm

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Gold Fever! Seattle Outfits the Klondike Gold Rush

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Seattle's Pioneer Square bustled with excitement as news of a major gold strike in Canada's Yukon River valley reached the port city during the summer of 1897. Soon eager prospectors from all over the country descended on Seattle to purchase supplies and secure transportation to the far-away gold fields. Newcomers were beset with information from every corner. Hawkers offered one sales pitch after another, explaining where to find lodging, meals, gambling, and other entertainment. Outfitters tried to entice prospectors into their stores to purchase the supplies necessary for the stampede north. Anticipating large crowds, these outfitters piled merchandise everywhere, including the sidewalks in front of their stores. One clever merchant opened a mining school where greenhorns could learn the techniques of panning, sluicing, and rocking before setting out for the gold fields. Some anxious stampeders headed directly for the piers where ships were ready to sail north, joining the great migration to the Klondike gold fields. The intense bustle and commotion of the Klondike Gold Rush dramatically changed the face of Seattle.

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About This Lesson

The lesson is based on the National Register of Historic Places registration file, "Pioneer Square Historic District," and other sources on Seattle and the Klondike Gold Rush. It was written by Marc K. Blackburn, park ranger at Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park.

Where it fits into the curriculum

Topics: The lesson will help students understand how Seattle exemplified the prosperity of the Klondike Gold Rush. It can be used in units on western expansion, late 19th-century commerce, and urban history.

Time period: Late 19th Century.

Objectives for students

1) To list several impacts the Klondike Gold Rush had on Seattle.

2) To examine why people came to Seattle to purchase their supplies and transportation to the gold fields.

3) To evaluate methods used to entice stampeders to outfit in Seattle.

4) To describe some of the difficulties stampeders encountered on their journey from Seattle to the Klondike.

5) To determine the effect of a dramatic event on their own community.

Materials for students

The materials listed below either can be used directly on the computer or can be printed out, photocopied, and distributed to students. The map and images appear twice: in a low-resolution version with associated questions and alone in a larger, high-resolution version.

1) two maps of Seattle and the route to the Klondike gold fields;

2) three readings that outline the role Seattle played in the Klondike Gold Rush;

3) articles and partial transcripts from a special edition of the Seattle-Post Intelligencer;

4) five photographs Seattle's Pioneer Square and stampeders on the

Chilkoot Trail.

Visiting the site

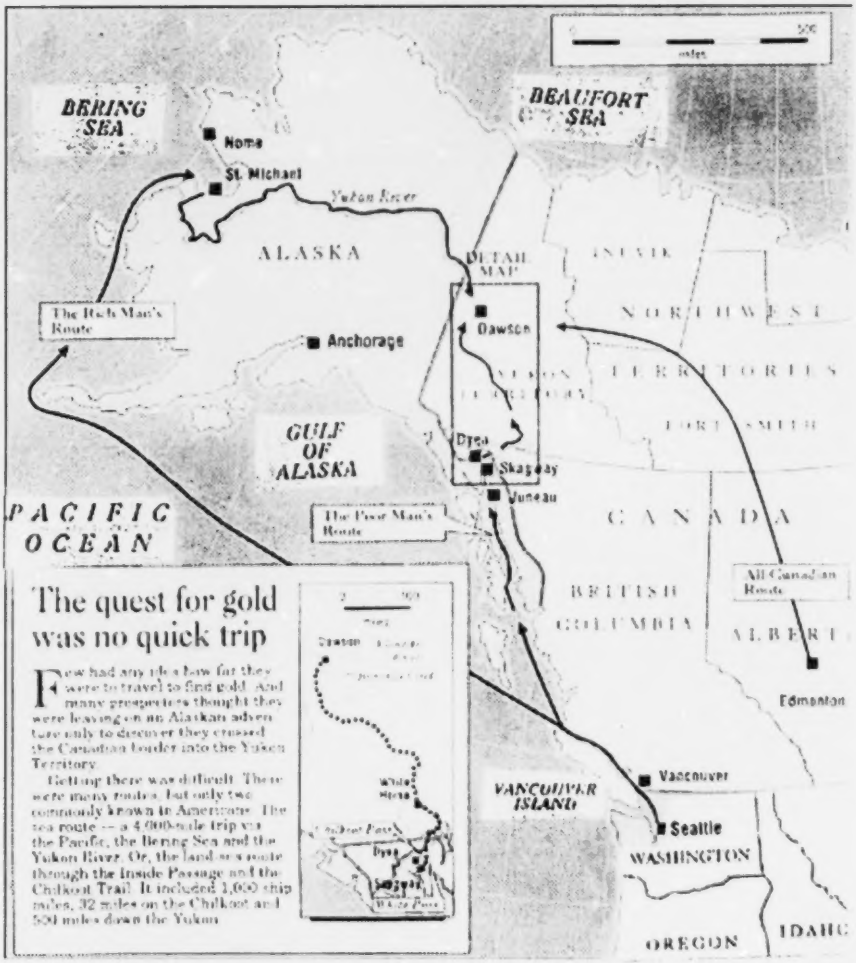
Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park is divided into two units--Skagway, Alaska and downtown Seattle, Washington in the Pioneer Square Historic District. The Seattle unit is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., except New Year's Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The Skagway unit Visitor Center is open - June, July, August: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily, May - September: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily. Winter: variable open hours. The Trail Center is open 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. daily, mid-May to September. For more information write to the Superintendent, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, 117 South Main Street, Seattle, Washington 98104 or visit the park's web pages at http://www.nps.gov/klgo/

Setting the Stage

In February 1852, a group of settlers founded the city of Seattle on the shores of Puget Sound. They chose the location because it provided a good place from which to ship logs and timber south to San Francisco, California. The following year, a steam sawmill was built, and with it Seattle's first industry was born. The town grew slowly at first due to its isolated location and the nation's involvement in the Civil War. This isolation ended in the late 1880s and early 1890s when the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads crossed the Cascade Mountain range into Puget Sound. During this period, Seattle began to enjoy economic prosperity as a hub for shipping and railroads.

During the summer of 1897, news of a gold strike in the isolated and desolate Klondike region of Canada's Yukon Territory reached the United States. The ensuing Klondike Gold Rush marked the last of the great gold rushes that had played a part in the development of the West since 1849 when John Marshall discovered gold in California. In the second half of the 19th century, gold and silver were discovered in many places throughout the West, including Nevada, Colorado, Montana, Idaho, and the panhandle of Alaska. Each discovery triggered waves of migration to the respective gold fields, including the Klondike in 1897-98. During the Klondike Gold Rush, thousands of prospective miners, known collectively as "stampeders," flocked to Seattle to secure transportation to the gold fields and to purchase supplies (commonly called an "outfit") for their excursions. Seattle's merchants and ticket agents were suddenly beset with frenzied people preparing for the long and treacherous journey north.

Locating the Site
Map 1: Routes from Seattle to the Klondike Gold Fields



(Reprinted with permission, Seattle Post-Intelligencer)

The "rich man's route" to the Klondike gold fields involved taking a ship to the mouth of the Yukon River in western Alaska and navigating a boat more than 2,000 miles up the river to the gold fields. The "poor man's route" involved taking a ship to Skagway or Dyea in southern Alaska, climbing over mountains on foot, and building a boat to navigate 500 miles down the Yukon River.

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Questions for Map 1

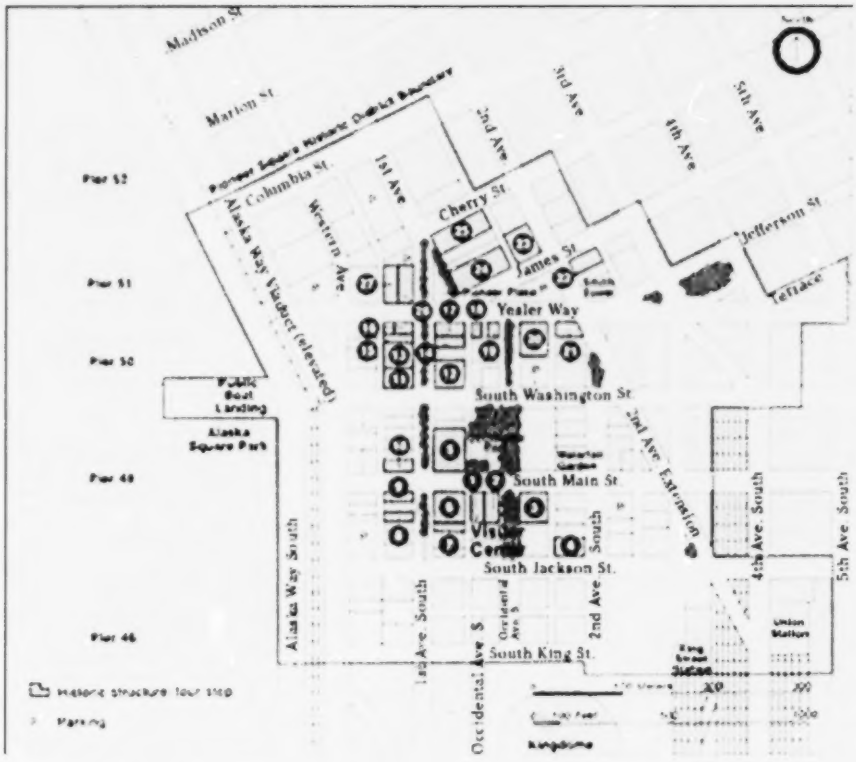
1. Identify the boundaries of the United States and Canada.

2. Locate Seattle, Washington; Skagway, Alaska; and Dawson, Yukon Territory (the town closest to the gold fields).

3. Trace the "rich man's route" to the Klondike region from Seattle and then the "poor-man's route." What appear to be the advantages and disadvantages of each route?

4. Why was Seattle a likely place for Americans to depart for the gold fields?

Locating the Site
Map 2: Seattle's Pioneer Square today.



(National Park Service)

Building name, date constructed, use during gold rush:

1. Union Trust Annex, 1902
2. Union Trust Building, c. 1893
3. State Building, 1890, a wholesale and retail grocer
4. Cadillac Hotel, 1890
5. Squire-Latimer Building, 1889, Grand Central Hotel
6. The Globe Building, 1898, Globe Hotel
7. Nord Building, 1890, store for hardware, wagons and farm implements
8. Maud Building, 1889, a hotel
9. Matilda Winehill Block, 1889, Alaska Commercial Hotel
10. New England Building, 1889, NewEngland Hotel
11. Maynard Building, 1890, housed various businesses
12. Delmar Building, 1895, State Hotel
13. Terry-Denny Building, c.1895, Great Northern Hotel
14. Lippy Building, 1900 (Built by Thomas Lippy who became rich in the Klondike)
15. Schwabacher Building, 1890, hardware store
16. Yesler Building, 1890
17. Olympic Block, 1890, Cooper & Levy Outfitters, Olympic Hotel & RR ticket office
18. Merchant's Cafe, 1889
19. Korn Building, 1890
20. Interurban Building, 1890
21. Metropole Building, 1895, drug store
22. Collins Block, 1893
23. Butler Block, 1890, Butler Hotel
24. Pioneer Building, 1892, housed various mining firms
25. Lowman Building, 1900
26. Mutual Life Building, 1897
27. Post Hotel, 1893

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In 1889, Pioneer Square, the area of Seattle's original settlement, was destroyed by fire. Businesses quickly rebuilt, this time with fireproof buildings of stone and brick. By 1897, Pioneer Square was again the commercial and social center of Seattle.

Questions for Map 2

1. According to Map 2, how many hotels were operating during the gold rush?

2. What other businesses were dedicated to the needs of stampeders?

3. What do you notice about the construction dates of these buildings?

4. What evidence on the map (and key) indicates Seattle's role as a transportation center?

Determining the Facts

Reading 1: The Rush for Gold

Seattle, Washington, buzzed with excitement on July 17, 1897. Word had come over the telegraph wires two days earlier that the S.S. Portland was heading into Puget Sound from St. Michael, Alaska, with more than a ton of gold in her hold. The gold strike had begun quietly on August 17, 1896, when three miners found gold in the Klondike River, a tributary of the Yukon. News of the strike spread slowly over the next year until miners began to return with their fortunes.

On board the Portland were 68 miners and their stores of gold. The local newspaper, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, sent reporters on a tugboat to interview the miners before they docked along the Seattle waterfront. Excited by the promise of catching a glimpse of gold, 5,000 people came down to the docks to see the miners and their treasure. The crowd was not disappointed. As the miners made their way down the gangplank, they hired spectators to help unload their gold. In a matter of hours, Seattle was swept with a case of gold fever. The great Klondike Gold Rush in Yukon Territory was on, as people dropped everything to head for the gold fields.

Seattle's Pioneer Square, the area of the town's first settlement, welcomed thousands of prospective miners, known as "stampeders." Merchants and ticket agents were beset with stampeders anxious to find transportation to the gold fields and to purchase supplies called "outfits." Store owners quickly stocked up with goods the prospectors would need and urged them to take advantage of their competitive prices. On average, an outfit for two people cost $250 to $500 and included such items as heavy clothing and boots; nonperishable foods like smoked bacon, beans, rice, and dried fruit; personal items like soap and razor blades; and mining tools. Stampeders had to buy enough supplies to last for several months because there were few, if any, opportunities to replenish supplies on the way to the gold fields. By early September, 9,000 people and 3,600 tons of freight had left Seattle for the Klondike.

Seattle became a temporary home to thousands of people as they feverishly planned their trip north. Steamers taking passengers to Alaska were over booked and often dangerously overcrowded. Even so, many people who came to Seattle were forced to wait weeks before space became available at all. Merchants welcomed the flood tide of customers to the city, but hotel rooms and boardinghouses became scarce. Whether arriving by boat or train, newcomers flocked to Pioneer Square to find a "flop" (a bed). Spare rooms, basements, and attics were converted to living quarters for stampeders awaiting transportation to Skagway, Alaska and other points north.

Pioneer Square offered filling meals and many amusements for those who had the time or the money to spare. Hungry stampeders could purchase a meal at one of the many restaurants, cafes, and eateries throughout the business district. Gambling halls, variety theaters, and saloons catered to the whims of many. Adding to the neighborhood's

rough-and-tumble reputation, some dishonest people sold prospectors goods they did not need or substituted poor quality food for the better quality items the stampeders thought they were purchasing.

One of the immediate concerns of the stampeders was the route they would take to the gold fields. Few had any idea of how far they would have to travel after they left Seattle. Many were astonished to find that the Klondike strike was not in Alaska but across the Canadian border into the Yukon Territory. Since many of the stampeders were poor, they had to take the less expensive but extremely difficult route up to the Alaskan panhandle and over mountains to the Yukon River and then to Dawson, the town closest to the gold fields. Those who could afford the easier, all-water route, traveled to the delta of the Yukon River and then down the river to Dawson. Most stampeders who set out in the fall would not even reach the gold fields until the following spring because the Yukon River had frozen and the mountain trails from Skagway and Dyea, Alaska, were almost impassable. Most would return to Seattle in a year or two--some with riches, but most poorer than when they started. Others died before ever seeing the gold fields.

Questions for Reading 1

1. How was Seattle linked to the Klondike gold strike? What changes did the gold rush bring to Seattle?

2. Why did it take so long for news of the gold strike to spread?

3. What businesses grew because of the Klondike Gold Rush?

4. Using Map 1 as well as Reading 1, describe the routes stampeders could take to the gold fields. Why did it take so long to reach the gold fields?

5. If you were a stampeder, what problems might you have faced once you arrived in Seattle?

Reading 1 was adapted from The Klondike Gold Rush of 1898: A Teacher's Guide to the Last Grand Adventure (Seattle: Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, 1993); Pierre Berton, The Klondike Fever: The Life and Death of the Last Great Gold Rush (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1958); and Elizabeth Rider Montgomery, When a Ton of Gold Reached Seattle (Champaign, IL: Garrard Publishing Company).

Determining the Facts
Reading 2: Selling Seattle

Soon after the news of the Klondike gold strike was out, other port cities on the Pacific coast--especially Tacoma, Washington, and Portland, Oregon--were eager to attract the business of stampeders. Erastus Brainerd, hired by Seattle's Chamber of Commerce to publicize the city's resources, founded the Bureau of Information to answer questions about outfitting, transportation, and accommodations. The following statistics are from a report he issued to show the Bureau's progress in advertising the benefits of outfitting in Seattle.

Newspaper & Magazine Display Advertising

* Small ads in 6,244 weekly newspapers each with a circulation of 400 or more.
* Five-inch ads in Denver, Chicago, St. Paul, Minnesota, and San Francisco newspapers.
* 2/3 page ad in the New York Journal.
* 1/4 page ad in the following national magazines: Munsey, McClures, Cosmopolitan, Harper's , Century, Scribner.
* Total copies distributed: 23,325,000.

Newspaper Distribution

* Eight-page Seattle Post-Intelligencer supplement, 200,000 copies printed.

Other Supplement Distribution

* Every postmaster in the United States: 70,000.
* Every Public library: 6,000.
* Mayors: 4,000.
* Great Northern Railroad: 10,000.
* Northern Pacific Railroad: 5,000.
* Publications in the United States: 20,000.
* Klondike committees of Correspondence: 3,000.

Information Circulars

* Three circulars published with one sent to every daily newspaper; one to every governor, mayor, and foreign ambassador; and one to every member of Congress.

Questions for Reading 2

1. What do these statistics tell you about the efforts of the Bureau of Information?

2. Why do you think the Bureau of Information relied only on printed matter

to promote Seattle?

3. If you were trying to advertise the amenities your town offers today, what might you do differently? What would you keep the same?

Reading 2 was adapted from "What the Advertising Committee Accomplished," no date, Erastus Brainerd Papers, Microfilm Division, University of Washington Libraries.

Determining the Facts
Document 1: "Special Klondike Edition," The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, October 13, 1897.

THE SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER.

SEATTLE OPENS THE GATE TO THE KLONDIKE GOLD FIELDS

(Reprinted with permission, Seattle Post-Intelligencer)

Transcript of article on left side of front page:

All Big Steamboat Lines but One
Have Headquarters in This City.
THAT ALONE TELLS SEATTLES STORY.
How the Rush Trade of 1897 Was Handled
by the Merchants of the Gateway City.
SEATTLE AS SEEN BY TRAVELERS
FROM THE EAST

Seattle is the best point in the world in which to secure an outfit for Alaska or the Klondike country. It is not a mushroom, milk-and-water town with only crude frontier ways: not a bit of it: it is a city of from 65,000 to 70,000 population, with big brick and stone business blocks and mercantile establishments that would be a credit to Chicago, New York, or Boston: it has paved streets, an unrivaled system of street cars--electric and cable--electric lights, several transcontinental railroads and a harbor unequaled in America.

Look at the map. Get the location of Seattle firmly fixed in your mind's eye. Seattle is the

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natural point for Alaskan travelers to reach. It is the terminal point for three great transcontinental lines: The Northern Pacific, Great Northern and Canadian Pacific, the latter being through the Seattle & International railroad. It connects indirectly with the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, the Denver & Rio Grande, the Southern Pacific, the Union Pacific and all other railroads operating the United States or Canada. In fact if you are coming West en route to the Klondike, go to your railroad, ask for a through ticket to Seattle, and the railroads will do the rest--they will land you in the Gateway City, safe and sound, in just a few days. But why should you come to Seattle?

THESE ARE THE REASONS

- Seattle is the greatest city on Puget Sound, commercially, numerically and socially.
- Seattle is headquarters for nine out of ten of all steamboat companies going to Alaska or the Klondike.
- Seattle has taken care of the Alaska trade for years, has absorbed it from greater cities, and her merchants are educated to the real needs of the miner.
- Seattle merchants are honest, as proven during the big rush of this year, and carry the greatest variety of Klondike goods found anywhere.
- Seattle is the natural gateway to the Klondike, over 8,000 Klondike miners and prospectors having left this city for the Northwest gold fields in Seattle steamboats during 1897, nearly all of whom bought their outfits here and expended thereby $2,500,000.
- Further--You should come to Seattle because it will pay to do so.

Jealous of Seattle's greatness and of the fact that this city has become the starting point for Alaska and the Klondike, rival cities will attempt to deceive you. As you come West you will be supplied with misleading and often untrue printed matter announcing that some other city sells goods cheaper, has larger stocks, that Seattle is overcrowded and so forth. Heed it not. The Post-Intelligencer stakes its reputation with the American public when it says: "Come to Seattle; you will be well satisfied with your [unreadable] and treatment, have no trouble in getting your supplies and save money besides."

Transcript of article on right side of front page:

Thousands Coming to the Gateway
to Prepare for the Spring Trip.
ADVICE TO PROSPECTORS GOING NORTH
Why Seattle Merchants Are Better Equipped for
Handling the Trade Than Any Others.
SOMETHING OF OUR COMMERCIAL
IMPORTANCE

It has been estimated that from 10,000 to 20,000 persons, who desire to go to Alaska next spring, will spend the winter in Seattle; already fully 5000 are here. Their idea is to reside in Seattle during the winter, thus enabling them to meet men experienced in

Alaska mining, who make their headquarters in Seattle, and gain knowledge by personal association: to get posted on the different sections of the Arctic region, and to become familiar with the locality offering the greatest possible chances for new discoveries: learn all about routes, the necessary outfit and above all to be on hand ready at any moment to take advantage of the earliest opportunity in February or March to start for the North. Thus, they meet...get acquainted with opportunities, have ample time to secure a perfect outfit when there are no unusual crowds, and by being in advance of the great rush when spring opens are enabled to get into Alaska or the Klondike cheaply and quickly and with well-informed ideas of what they desire to do and exactly where to go when they get there.

The Post-Intelligencer would therefore offer this advice to prospective Klondike miners:

1. As soon as you have made your financial arrangements--if you can possibly afford it--come to Seattle, whether it be October, November, December or January. The expenses of living here are naught as compared with the advantages to be derived.

2. Do not purchase your outfit until after you reach Seattle. If you are in doubt as to the best place in which to outfit before you arrive, depend upon it your mind will be at ease on that point after you have been living here for a few days and have compared Seattle goods, Seattle markets and Seattle prices with those of other cities.

3. As near as possible complete all of your financial arrangements before coming to the [Puget] Sound. Have your funds properly deposited subject to your order, either in your home bank or in a bank in Seattle. Do not go into the gold fields without enough money for use in case of necessity.

4. While in Seattle you can suit your own convenience about a place of residence. You can live at hotels...or you can secure rooms by the month with board or without. There are numerous good restaurants of all grades in the city and any number of good boarding houses. The expense of hotels is 50 cents to $1.50 for rooms alone, and hotels board from $1.00 to $3.50 per day. Good single rooms can be secured in lodging houses from $5 a month and up. A really comfortable room in the business district can be secured for $10 a month and upwards. Board is as cheap here as in any city in the west.

5. Do not wait until the last moment before purchasing your outfit. Get it in part or complete as soon after your arrival in Seattle as you have determined that what you wish....You will find that goods going into Alaska need special packing in order to protect them from rain or frost, and that Seattle merchants, by reason of their long experience in shipping outfits to Alaska, can give you an expert service in this regard that you can get nowhere else.

6. By remaining in Seattle several weeks you will find time to see the different steamships running to Alaska, as they make Seattle their headquarters, and thus determine what accommodations you desire and which vessel would satisfy you in regard to sailing date and destination.

7. The goods suitable to be shipped to the Klondike can only be secured in cities accustomed to the Arctic trade. All of Seattle's Klondike goods are manufactured especially for that trade, even her meats being especially cured and her butter packed particularly for that climate. You can find heavy woolen goods in the East; but you can only find Klondike goods in Seattle, where the trade has learned the needs of the Arctic residents. Besides, if you buy in the East, the freight alone to the Pacific will be nearly as much as the outfit here.

Questions for Document 1

1. Describe the sketch on the front page and explain how it fits in with the headline.

2. What aspect of Seattle does the first article seem to stress the most? Why?

3. What does the second article claim would be the benefits of wintering in Seattle? Why else might the article encourage prospectors to come to Seattle months before they might be able to leave for the gold fields?

4. Do you think the articles represent straight news or boosterism? Explain your answer.

5. What are your impressions of Seattle based on the Post-Intelligencer special edition?

Visual Evidence

Reading 3: The Legacy of the Klondike Gold Rush

The Klondike gold strike in the Yukon Territory marked the end of an era when prospectors could hope to dig out a fortune from the earth. Perhaps because it came so late in time compared to other major gold strikes, or perhaps because some miners did take home millions in spite of the frozen environment, this gold rush left a lasting mark on the American imagination. Today, readers still enjoy The Spell of the Yukon, by Robert Service and the many works of Jack London such as Call of the Wild and White Fang, that tell of the immense hardships under which the miners worked. Yet these stories also tell of the pull that the far north had on many and, even today, they spark readers' fascination.

The Klondike Gold Rush was significant not only because it was the last great gold rush but also because it increased awareness of the northern frontiers of Alaska and Canada. Unimpressed, the press had labeled the purchase of Alaska as "Seward's folly" or "Seward's ice box." Alaska and the Canadian Northwest, including the Yukon Territory, remained sparsely populated until the end of the century. When the U.S. Census Bureau declared the western frontier closed in 1890, interest in Alaska grew. While there still were millions of acres of empty space in the lower states and territories, more people began to venture north, toward the lands they recognized as the last frontier. The discovery of gold, first in Yukon Territory and then in Nome, Alaska, raised the public's interest in what the far north had to offer.

Many changes took place in the Yukon as a result of the gold rush. A railway was built from Skagway, Alaska, to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, in1900. The population of Whitehorse swelled to 30,000 the same year. The gold-bearing gravel found between the Yukon and Klondike Rivers brought as much as $22 million in 1900, but it fell to $5.6 million by 1910 when most of the stampeders had left for Alaska, returned to Seattle, or set out to other regions.

Many of the stampeders who went through Seattle never reached the gold fields. In fact, between 1897 and 1900, more than 100,000 people from many nations attempted to reach the Klondike, but no more than 40,000 reached Dawson City. Some quit on the trail after experiencing too much hardship. Some returned to their original homes. Still others returned to Seattle and made it their permanent home. The city had many attractions and rewards for those who decided to stay, but the primary lure was the wealth of jobs for the unemployed. Merchants hired clerks and stockers to keep up with the rising demand for goods and services. Local manufacturers of equipment and clothing, food processors, and shipyards all needed workers, as well. Even the government of the City of Seattle was hiring, because city workers and police officers

were needed to replace those who had quit and gone north in search of gold.

For Seattle, the gold rush created a boom that attracted people from all over the world even after the gold rush ended. In 1890, Seattle's population was 42,837. By the turn of the century, that figure had almost doubled, and by 1910, the population had reached 237,194. Matching this growth in population was an expansion of the city boundaries. By annexing small areas to the north and east of Pioneer Square, the size of the city more than doubled by 1910.

Seattle's business community continued to flourish. Many miners who returned to Seattle invested their fortunes in local businesses. For example, John Nordstrom invested $13,000 of Klondike gold into a shoe store, owned by a cobbler he had met in the gold fields. That shoe store marked the beginning of the Nordstrom department store chain. Outfitters, such as Edward Nordoff of Bon Marche, were able to capitalize on their successes during the gold rush and transform their small storefronts into major department stores that now have branches in many cities.

Seattle's links with the West Coast and the rest of the country continued to improve its economy. Manufactured goods, timber products, and other natural resources could be shipped by sea to San Francisco, Alaska, and the countries along the Pacific Rim. Goods also could be shipped by rail, with direct connections to Canada, California, the Midwest and the Northeast. At the dawn of a new century, Seattle had established itself as the premier city of the Northwest.

Questions for Reading 3

1. What impact did the Klondike Gold Rush have on the popular idea of the northern frontier?

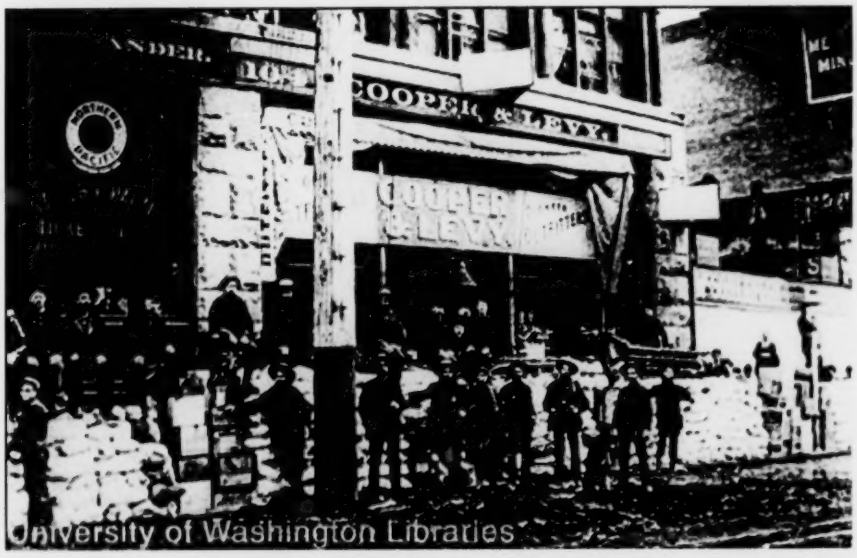
2. Why did some stampeders stay in Seattle or return to live there?

3. Have you read books by Robert Service or Jack London? If so, what are some of the impressions these works gave you about the far north?

4. What was the long-term impact of the Klondike Gold Rush on Seattle?

Reading 3 was adapted from The Klondike Gold Rush of 1898: A Teacher's Guide to the Last Grand Adventure (Seattle: Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park,1993).

Visual Evidence
Photo 1: Cooper & Levy Pioneer Outfitters



(Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries, Curtis Photo, Neg. 26368)

Photo 2: McDougal & Southwick Co.

Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park

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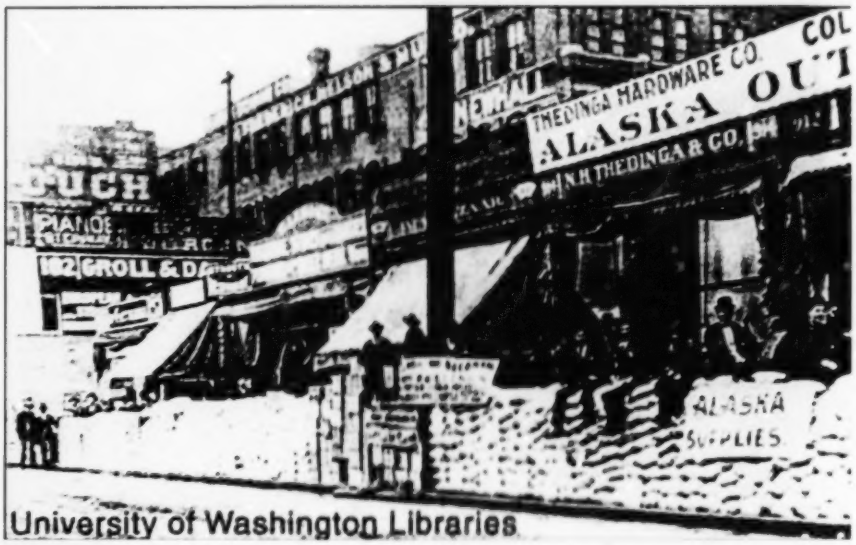
Photo 3: Thedinga Hardware Company



(Special Collections, University of Washington Libraries, Neg. 4763)

Questions for Photos 1, 2, & 3

1. Locate Cooper & Levy Outfitters on Map 2.

2. What might the bags and boxes shown in the photos contain? Why is there so much merchandise? Why is it stacked outside?

3. Approximately when do you think these photos were taken? Why do you think so?

4. In what ways do these photos summarize what was happening in Seattle at the time they were taken?

5. What are your impressions of Seattle based on the photos?

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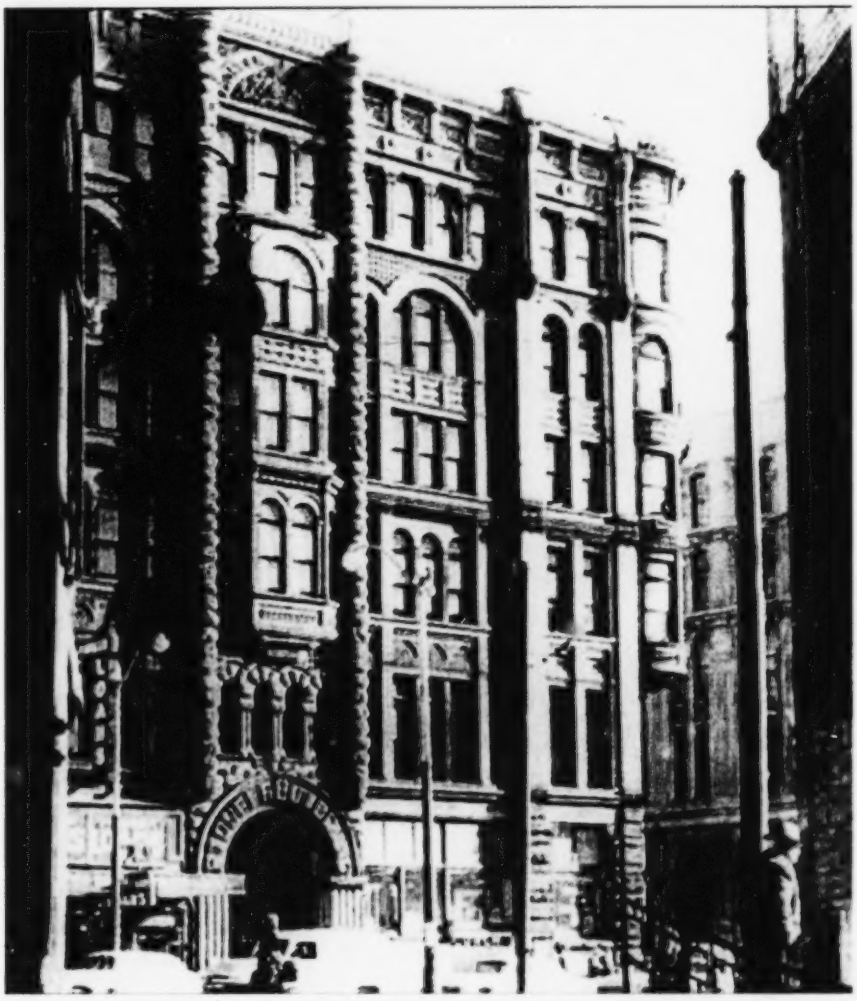
Visual Evidence
Photo 4: The Pioneer Building, Pioneer Square



National Park Service

Questions for Photo 4

1. Locate this building on Map 2 of Seattle's Pioneer Square.

2. What role did this building play in the gold rush business in Seattle?

3. Does the building change your impression of Seattle based on Photos 1-3? Why or why not?

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Visual Evidence
Photo 5: Ascending the Golden Stairs up to Chilkoot Pass on the Chilkoot Trail, 1897.

(Library of Congress)

A stampeder might spend an entire day getting his gear to the top of this hill because he could only haul a portion of the heavy load at one time. He would have to store a load at the top and then retrace his steps to pick up another load. It often took many such trips before the miner was ready to start down the other side of the Chilkoot Pass.

Questions for Photo 5

1. Locate the Chilkoot Pass on Map 1.
2. What are some of the goods that these miners might be carrying on their backs?
3. What conditions did these stampeders face?
4. What do the men to the left of the trail appear to be doing?

Putting It All Together

The following activities will help students understand not only how the Klondike Gold Rush affected Seattle, but also how important events may have altered the economic and social fabric of their own community.

Activity 1: Should I Stay, or Should I Go?

Divide students into groups of four and have each member select one of the following characters:

- Veteran miner (sourdough): The sourdough had struck it rich once and although he knows firsthand of the hard work, patience, and luck needed to strike gold, he also knows that he has the know-how to chance a second trip that might bring him more wealth and riches.
- Widow: In a society that limits opportunities available to women, she must decide whether to open a business in Seattle or go north alone.
- Merchant: He will go anywhere to make a profit. He is looking for the location that will give him the greatest return for his money.
- Farmer: A farmer from Iowa has sold his farm so that he, his wife, and two small children can improve their fortunes. While a knowledgeable outdoorsman, he has never mined for gold.

Ask each group member to decide how his or her character would answer the question, "Should I go, or not go to the Klondike gold fields?" Have students list the reasons for their decision and then share their thoughts with the rest of the class. Then poll students to find out how many of them think they would have chosen to go to the Klondike if they had been alive at the time. Complete the activity by having students discuss how people of today might respond to news of a gold strike.

Activity 2: Opportunity Knocks

Working in small groups, have students look through old newspapers and files in their local library or historical society archives to find an event that brought dramatic economic and/or social change to their town or region. Possibilities include the coming of the railroad, the start of a major business or industry, immigration, a major war, or some other event. Students should try to find out how people reacted to the event, as well as how the community's physical appearance changed, if at all. If possible, students may want to interview people who witnessed the event they chose. Finally, have students research whether or not any buildings or monuments related to the event still exist. If so, have them collect or take photographs of the building and describe how it is related to their event. Groups can present their findings in a written or oral report.

Gold Fever! The Klondike Gold Rush Supplementary Resources

Gold Fever! Seattle Outfits the Klondike Gold Rush will help in understanding how Seattle exemplified the prosperity of the Klondike Gold Rush. The lesson plan provides insight into the impact the Klondike Gold Rush had on Seattle. Those interested in learning more will find that the Internet offers a variety of materials.

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Seattle Unit
http://www.nps.gov/klse/index.html

Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park is a unit of the National Park System. The park's web page details the history of the park and visitation information. The site also offers a virtual museum that provides stories, maps, and photographs of the Gold Rush Era in Seattle.

Hard Drive to the Klondike: Promoting Seattle During the Gold Rush
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/klse/hrstoc.htm

The National Park Service interprets the Klondike Gold Rush, including Seattle's role in the Klondike trade and the legacy of the Gold Rush, in their historic resource study, Hard Drive to the Klondike: Promoting Seattle During the Gold Rush.

Ghosts of the Gold Rush http://www.gold-rush.org/

The Ghosts of the Gold Rush web page offers a wealth of information about the Klondike Gold Rush. Included on the site is a research database, a link to stories of Klondike stampeders, a time line of Alaskan Gold Rush history, and much more.

Golden Dreams: The Quest for the Klondike
http://www.wshs.org/text/klondike/index.htm

Golden Dreams: The Quest for the Klondike is a historical and photographic exhibit by the Washington State Historical Society that retraces the path to the Klondike gold fields through the lens of photographer, Asahel Curtis.

Valdez Museum & Historical Archive http://www.alaska.net/~vldzmuse/index.html

The Valdez Gold Rush pages provide a database to research information about gold rush participants. This site also features a time line, historic photographs, and a Gold Rush Links page to other sites and information about the Klondike and California gold rushes.

Archives and Manuscript Repositories in Washington
http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/wasites.html

The Library of Congress web pages offer a valuable resource page with links to different archives and manuscript repositories in the state of

Washington to further research the Klondike Gold Rush.

Stories from the Gold Rush
http://web2.si.edu/organiza/museums/postal/gold/gold.html

The National Postal Museum celebrates the Klondike/Alaskan Gold Rush centennial with a web page that explores the last great gold rush of the 19th century and the role of the mail carriers who provided contact between those so far from home and the families they left behind.

Women in Alaska's History - Gold Rush
http://library.advanced.org/11313/Gold_Rush/

Think Quest Library examines the different women, from all walks of life, that joined the race for Klondike gold.

The Seattle Times http://www.seattletimes.com/klondike/

The Seattle Times web page provides unique insight in their Klondike Special Report where a reporter travels north by ferry, foot, and kayak on a Klondike adventure with his historical "companion," Mont Hawthorne, who made the trip in 1897-98. Included on the site is an article titled *The Day Seattle's Ship Came In*, and letters and journals chronicling the stampeders experience.